

6:11-24, The Call of Gideon

A consistent pattern when God calls someone to do a task: Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel; cf Abraham and Eliezer.

| Element | Gideon | Application |
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| 1. Divine Confrontation | 11-12, Appearance of the Angel of the Lord | Respond to the Lord, not our own ideas or desires |
| 2. Introductory word | 12 “The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor” | |
| 3. Commission | 14 “Go in this thy might ... have not I sent thee?” | |
| 4. Objection | 15 “Wherewith shall I save Israel” | Expect to be stretched |
| 5. Reassurance | 16 “Surely I will be with thee” | God will strengthen and encourage us |
| 6. Sign | 17-20 “Show me a sign ... there rose up fire ...” | |

“The Angel of the Lord”

To Hager fleeing Sarah:

Gen. 16:7 And **the angel of the LORD** found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. [+3x] ...
13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, **Thou God** seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

To Abraham sacrificing Isaac:

Gen. 22:11 And **the angel of the LORD** called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.
12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son **from me**.

To Moses in Midian:

Ex. 3:2 And **the angel of the LORD** appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ... 4 And when **the LORD** saw that he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I

Rebuking Israel after conquest:

Judg. 2:1 And **the angel of the LORD** came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I **made you** to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I **sware** unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break **my covenant** with you.

Announcing birth of Samson:

Judg. 13:3 And **the angel of the LORD** appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. [+11x] ... 22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because **we have seen God**. 23 But his wife said unto him, If **the LORD** were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

Mic. 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth have been from of old**, from everlasting.

Symbolic Names

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| Name | Abiezer—my divine Father is my help | Gideon—hacker, hewer |
| Divine Word | 12a The Lord is with thee | 12b thou mighty man of valour |
| Gideon's Questions | 13 If the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? | 15 I am the least in my father's house |
| Reassurance | 16 Surely I will be with thee, | and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man |

Serving a Heavenly Guest

| Abraham, Genesis 18 | Gideon, Judges 6 |
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| 3 [he] said, My Lord, אֲדֹנָי (plural) | 15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord אֲדֹנָי (plural) |
| if now I have found favour in thy sight, | 17 If now I have found grace in thy sight, |
| pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: | 18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, |
| 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; | until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. |
| And they said, So do, as thou hast said. | And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. |
| 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes ... 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. 8 ... butter, and milk ... | 19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid , and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, |
| 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, | and brought it out unto him under the oak, |
| and set it before them; | and presented it. |

Anticipating Elijah

| | Judges 6, Gideon | 1 Kings 18, Elijah |
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| Saturated sacrifice | 20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. | 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. |
| Fire from heaven | 21 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. | 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. |
| If Baal is a god ... | 31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. | 24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. |

Helpful References on Gideon

Judg. 6:22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

Ex. 33:20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Judg. 6:21 ... Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.... 23 And the LORD said unto him, ...

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Judg 6:25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even and the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal **that thy father hath,**

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Judg 6:26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God ... and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice

Deut 12:10 But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; 11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: 12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. 13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: 14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.